The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

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National Intelligence Council

NIC #00200-88 13 January 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Director of Central Intelligence

Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM:

Assistant National Intelligence Officer for East Asia

SUBJECT:

Secretary Shultz's Comments on the Philippine SNIE

- 1. Upon checking with the INR analyst who represented the State Department at Monday's coordination meeting on SNIE 56-88: The Philippines: Problems and Prospects for the Aduino Government, I find that Secretary Shultz's concern about the tone of the current Philippine SNIE is based on a memo prepared by that analyst after the coordination meeting. Based on what I heard at the Concept Paper/Terms of Reference meeting, and comparing it to many other coordination meetings on past Philippine estimates, I am a little surprised that a judgment has already been made that the draft will be too negative and will take too hard a line on Aquino. On the other hand, however, past experience with this INR Representative tells me that whatever we say in the draft, it will be too hard on the Philippines and Aquino.
- 2. Although the INR and DIA representatives believed that some of the questions in the TOR were leading and not balanced, there were no fundamental disagreements expressed throughout the meeting. In fact, there was agreement on some issues that were very contentious in past meetings. All agreed that the questions asked were those that needed to be asked; that the list of questions was comprehensive; and that there were no questions asked that should not have been asked. Those questions that were considered leading were modified.
- 3. An NSSD is being prepared by State on the Philippines. The NIO/EA made it very clear that this SNIE was meant to be an input to that NSSD. The SNIE is not meant to be a paper which discusses what is going well in the Philippines. If the US Government is asking what it can do to help in the Philippines, it is necessary for us to identify the problems that need to be addressed. The thrust of the SNIE, therefore, is to identify the problems that need addressing; to assess what the Aquino government is doing to address them, and to express how confident we are that the Philippines will be able to deal with the problems.

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4. In some ways the criticism of the TOR is a preemptive move by the INR Representative who now realizes that she and the DIA Representative are alone in an optimistic appraisal of the Philippines. (The views of the DIA Representative are mainly those of his own, not DIA's. Most others in DIA hold a much more pessimistic view of the Philippines.) The judgments emerginat the meeting were somewhat pessimistic, but they reflected the views of those who attended, with the exception the INR and DIA Representatives.					
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